action plans. Reaching consensus among so many diverse partners with competing priorities is a very challenging task for the organizers of these regional ecosystem consortia.

Canada conducts research on and monitors wildlife populations of national interest to ensure sustainability of populations and associated cultural and economic benefits. Through research and partnerships, Canada promotes the stewardship of habitats and ecosystems, particularly in relation to forestry and agriculture. Working in collaboration with economic sectors such as agriculture and forestry, Canada is implementing multi-partner programs, for instance, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, which is the largest conservation program ever undertaken in North America.

Canadian scientific research has led to the proposal of a new policy that will provide a framework for the effective management of toxic substances. The proposed policy, as described in the discussion document "Towards a Toxic Substances Management Policy for Canada," is based on the principles of sustainable development and pollution prevention, and emphasizes the need for preventive and precautionary approaches to the management of toxic substances, including the virtual elimination of persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic substances of predominantly anthropogenic origin.

Enhancing Scientific Understanding

Canadian science acknowledges and advocates the need to preserve ecosystem integrity. New knowledge is continuously acquired and methodologies are devised to maintain and monitor a healthy environment. The following initiatives have been developed to ensure the sustainability of Canadian resource sectors:

- Research by governments, universities, and the private sector in support of sustainable forestry, including the identification and elimination of toxic compounds from pulp mill effluents, and the identification of environmental concerns from the various types of clear-cutting practices.
- The Canada Centre for Remote Sensing leads the Boreal Ecosystem–Atmosphere Study (BOREAS), a co-operative international study involving several hundred scientists from the United States, Canada, and abroad. BOREAS promotes the understanding of the relationship between the boreal forest and the earth's atmosphere, providing Canadians with the information required to predict the influence of climate change on this important ecosystem.
- Through partnership in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Canadians are working in support of agricultural soil conservation and wetland protection.
- The Canadian Program on Energy Research and Development (PERD) is the main instrument for national energy policies to promote the management of research and development of environmentally responsible and cost-effective technologies. The program addresses all aspects of energy except nuclear fission and includes environmental impacts.